



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Final SRBA Director's Reports Filed in Basin 24

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The Idaho Department of Water Resources has filed its Director's Reports for Basin 24, encompassing tributaries of the Salt River. This report is one of many in the Snake River Basin Adjudication – one of the nation's largest adjudications ever attempted, which will finally begin to wrap up early next year. Basin 24 runs along the Wyoming border east of Soda Springs.

"This adjudication process is very important for water users in basin 24 because many held beneficial use rights and there were questions about whether those rights legally existed," IDWR Basin 24 Lead Investigator Cindy Bird said. "Now those same water users will come out of this with perfected water rights recognized as legally valid."

Launched in the fall of 1987 as part of the Swan Falls Agreement, the SRBA has processed approximately 140,000 water right claim recommendations across Southern Idaho, costing taxpayers \$75 million. The final directors reports will be filed in district court later this month and early next year.

"I'd like to thank water right holders in basin 24 and across the entire Snake River Basin for being so patient and helpful," SRBA bureau chief Don Shaff said. "I really appreciate the staff commitment too. People have spent weekends and holidays in the office in recent weeks working lots of extra hours and pushing hard to finish up."

Once a director's report is filed with the court, a copy is mailed to claimant. If the claimant disputes any findings in the director's report, an objection can be filed and IDWR will attempt to resolve any differences. If there are no objections, or they are worked out, the court will issue a final decree, which legally establishes the water right.

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